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Business Notices.

THE PRODUCTIONS OF THE EMBROIDERERS, MACMILLAN, FRENCH, PROCTOR, ELLIOT AND BUSH-BROWN, ON EXHIBITION IN THIS COUNTRY ONLY AT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THEODORE D. STARR, Madison Square West, New York.

New-York Daily Tribune.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6, 1898.

THE NEWS THIS MORNING.

FOREIGN.—The Vatican hopes to be able to propose terms of an armistice in Cuba to-day or to-morrow; many conferences relating to the Cuban question took place in Madrid; the attempt of the Powers to arrange a joint mediation between the United States and Spain failed; the Japanese press and people resent England's taking Wei-Hai-Wei; China has yielded to the demands of France. The Radical Left has secured a majority in the Folketing in the elections of April 5 in Denmark.

CONGRESS.—Both branches in session. Harris and Kenney spoke in favor of an immediate declaration of war against Spain. House: Several private bills were passed, among them a bill to drive Spain from the island. The Cuban question did not come up.

DOMESTIC.—War between the United States and Spain seems inevitable, unless Spain yields; President McKinley's message to Congress to-day is expected to result in armed intervention; the Cuban question is expected to be decided in the House; the Treasury Department, talked of the measures which might be taken to raise additional revenue in case of war. The Spanish Minister in Washington expressed himself as still hopeful for peace between his country and the United States.

CITY AND SUBURBAN.—The treasurer of the Cuban Revolutionary Party, in replying to statements as to the circulation of Cuban bonds, said that every one issued had been honestly sold, and he was prepared to account under oath for them. The Methodist Conference, whose last session was held, adopted resolutions urging action by this country in support of the Cuban cause. The annual appointments were given out. Alfred Baiens, alias William A. Belding, was sentenced to six years in State Prison, having been convicted of robbing W. E. Maudslayi, a part of several thousand dollars' worth of jewelry. John F. Baudouine and Mr. and Mrs. Charles A. Baudouine were hurt in a collision between their coach and a trolley car. One hundred and forty-fourth and Third-ave. Stocks were dull and weak.

THE WEATHER.—Indications for to-day: Fair. The temperature yesterday: Highest, 56 degrees; lowest, 31; average, 41.

THE PRESIDENT AND CONGRESS.

"A close friend" of the President is quoted as saying: "It is a disgrace to the United States Congress to hold a stop-watch over the head of the President of the United States and tell him that he must submit his message on a certain day and at a certain hour or suffer the humiliation of having Congress act without waiting for his recommendations." If a close friend of the President, or anybody else, has said this, he has spoken the truth with creditable emphasis and precision. While bearing a tremendous burden, which he could not drop or shift to others, at a crisis in the history of the United States, for the maintenance of whose honor and welfare the country and the world will forever hold him responsible, President McKinley has been depleted, even by members of Congress who are accounted his supporters, and the recipient of favors which he had no right to claim, the beneficiary of a singularly generous and courteous indulgence on the part of his superiors in authority.

It is a monstrous delusion which men who congratulate themselves upon their forbearance in assuming that attitude are cherishing. The simple truth is that they are intruders upon the President's exclusive domain, and they owe it to his discernment of a patriotic motive underlying the interference which has made his position well-nigh intolerable that they have escaped a just, if perhaps injudicious, dismissal to their own proper sphere of action. Nor is it pertinent to argue that, having always possessed the power to force his hand abruptly at any moment, it is his privilege to apply the pressure of admonition and warning and moral coercion when and as they please. Congress does not possess that power. The Constitution gives Congress power to declare war. But how is war declared? Assuredly not by a general understanding or consensus of opinion, but by an explicit action. And every bill which shall "have passed the House of Representatives and the Senate," and every order, resolution or "vote to which the concurrence of the Senate and the House of Representatives may be necessary," except on a question of adjournment, "shall be presented to the President of the United States." With his approval it takes effect; if disapproved by him, it is void until repassed by a majority of two-thirds in each branch; and for ten days after it reaches him Congress cannot touch it. The hand of a President of the United States is not so easily and quickly forced as to warrant a rude excursion into the province which the Constitution has committed to his care.

But the complaint is that Congress has waited long; that since the situation became acute by the sinking of the Maine on February 15 the President has had seven weeks in which to conduct negotiations to a peaceful and honorable settlement. That is not the fact. Not one-half of that period has been at the President's disposal. The larger part of it has been,

by a cruel necessity, devoted to weariness and embarrassment to members of Congress who were eager to usurp, in a greater or less degree, functions which neither legally nor morally belonged to them, and to distort the President's consideration for their feelings into an unbecoming mercy from them to him. We firmly believe that they have not succeeded in confusing the public mind as to their respective authority and obligations, but that if the President had chosen at any time during the last seven weeks, or should now or hereafter see fit, to inform his impatient advisers that he could not permit himself to be nudged hurriedly in the administration of a momentous trust constitutionally imposed upon him by the American people, history would show that a vast majority of the American people had made his position impregnable.

FACING THE FINAL ISSUE.

To-day the President speaks the final words that will make for peace or war. They will be weighed with all the deliberation due to so momentous a matter. No one will ever be able to charge that they were uttered hastily, heedlessly or in a fit of passion. "Through long days of labor and nights devoid of ease" the Chief Magistrate has for weeks and months toiled at the mighty task of bringing forth justice from oppression and peace from amid war and rumors of war. Never was effort more patient. Never did such labor command more fully the confidence and loyal support of the nation concerned, and the sympathy of the civilized world. Whatever the issue, it will not have been in vain. The work done by the President in these last few weeks for peace and honor must entitle him to a high rank not only among the Chief Magistrates of this Nation, but among all rulers and benefactors of the human race.

At this hour the scale seems to have changed from peaceful to warlike indications. The forecast of the forthcoming message made in our special Washington correspondence this morning is decidedly warlike. The President, it is intimated, will report fully upon the negotiations which he has conducted for the abatement of the horrors of the Cuban war, and for the redress of the unquestionable grievances of the United States in that unhappy island. He will also report that, because of the obstinacy of the Spanish Government, those negotiations have practically failed. There is, then, only one course left open to this Nation compatible with its honor and with its obligations to humanity as a civilized Power. That course is intervention. The President will, it is said, be authorized by Congress to issue an ultimatum to Spain, requiring the withdrawal of her troops and administration from the island which she has so grossly misgoverned, in which she has so abused the rights and the patience of the American people, and which she has so signally failed to reduce to order. If Spain accedes to this demand war will be averted. If she refuses, as it is feared she will, the President will be authorized to employ the military and naval forces of the United States to enforce her compliance. That will mean war. And how close the Nation is to that resort is to be seen in the fact that, as announced in The Tribune's dispatches, Consul-General Lewis has been recalled from Havana in order to insure his personal safety, and the departure of the American Minister from Madrid is almost hourly expected.

This crisis will be met by the American people with serenity and confidence. They have not sought it, but they do not fear it and they will not shrink from it. They have been patient while the aspirations of a neighboring people for freedom have been cruelly crushed and thousands of helpless non-combatants have been done to death with every refinement of savage horror. They have restrained their just wrath while one of their ships on a friendly errand was destroyed through Spanish treachery and hundreds of her crew sent to untimely graves. These things cry aloud for redress, for such redress as nothing can give but a radical righting of the wrongs of which they are the outcome. Such redress the Government of the United States is now determined to obtain, without further delay. The time for patient waiting has been well employed. It is now past. The hour for action is come. And as the waiting was patient, the action will be decisive. The whole Cuban question must be settled now, once and for all time, and it can thus be settled only by settling it right. That the President has decided to do, and in that decision he will have the united support of the American people and, it is confidently believed, the approval of the civilized world.

THE COST OF DEFENSE.

The statement which appears in some journals that over \$34,000,000 of the defense fund of \$50,000,000 has been expended already is, of course, a mistake in every sense. No such amount has actually been paid, as the official returns of Government expenses show, for the entire amount paid out of the Treasury in March for the Navy Department was only \$5,241,443, compared with an average of \$2,900,000 a month last year and \$2,694,835 in the same month, and the entire amount paid out for the War Department was \$5,159,571, compared with an average of \$4,000,000 a month last year and \$3,046,104 in March. The various purposes for which sums are set apart show, when examined, that the expenditures authorized are for work much of which will run for months or even years, as in the construction of guns, ammunition, building and equipment of vessels, establishment of coaling stations, building of fortifications and the like, and include considerable amounts for which it is known that scarcely any expense has yet been incurred, as in the purchase of guns abroad, which the officials engaged in that duty have not been able to procure.

In general, the statement covers much which the President has authorized various branches of the service to expend within the discretion of the officials in charge, but a large proportion of the amount thus authorized has not been expended. For a good part of it there have not even been contracts made as yet; for other parts contracts have been made, the performance of which will require periods ranging from weeks to years; for other parts work is in progress under Government officials, and it cannot be guessed how far some of them may be prolonged. The actual expenditure is a very different matter, and has thus far been comparatively small. In case of an actual outbreak of war very different use might be made of much of the sums at the disposal of the departments from that which they have contemplated as most desirable if there should be sufficient

time, while in case peace should be attained an entirely different disposition of the funds would be deemed best for permanent public defense.

There is ample evidence that the temper of the people and of Congress in regard to such outlays of public money has changed greatly within the last few months. The whole country has been forced to realize what a defenseless condition might mean at any time should the rights or honor of the Nation require resistance to foreign injury or foreign aggression. It has also been forced to realize how greatly the cost of necessary defense is increased if the work is left to be done suddenly and under pressure of an emergency which puts the Government much at the mercy of contractors or those who have property to sell. Still more the truth has been forced home upon the minds of men that a defenseless condition invites aggression and injury, and goes far to make war probable, with all the costs of war. Every dollar spent in effective preparation within reasonable limits may be expected to save the country many dollars in prevention of war and of the aggression which leads to war.

In this light the vote of \$50,000,000 for the National defense was eminently wise and patriotic, irrespective of hopes for peace and the fact that brighter hopes for peace are now plainly due to vigorous preparations by this country. The money should all be expended without hesitation in placing the Nation in such a state of preparation for defense that other nations far more powerful than Spain will count the cost before they provoke hostility by any injury. The world has not yet reached that stage of progress and enlightenment at which peace can be assured through arbitration or any other process or device, if aggression is invited by failure to make adequate preparation for defense. The protection of its citizens and commerce against foreign injury is a duty which the Nation's Government cannot shrink or regard as less sacred than the highest of its obligations to the people who create and maintain it.

NO PAPAL MEDIATION.

Unwarlike and sensational "news" has done some harm again in connection with the proposed mediation of the Pope between Spain and Cuba. The statement has been put forth that President McKinley asked the Pope to mediate and arbitrate between the United States and Spain. There was never any ground for that statement, and every thoughtful man must have known it from the beginning. Yet not a few took it seriously, and based upon it criticisms of the President and protests against his policy. It was the old story of first making a man of straw and then attacking him. Usually such a performance provokes only derision. At such a time as this it is somewhat more deplorable. The fact is, of course, that there was never the slightest thought of either making such a request or of accepting such mediation. It would be manifestly unfair to ask the Pope to mediate between two parties whose relations to him are so different. It is difficult to see how his duty to his religion and to himself could allow him to exercise entire impartiality between a nation that is almost unanimously Catholic, and that maintains Catholicism as its State religion and bases its sovereignty authority upon the sanction of the Catholic Church, and one that is overwhelmingly Protestant in its view heretofore, and that recognizes no State religion. It is not supposable that the Pope would undertake such a task. It is certain the United States Government would never ask him to do so, nor agree to having his performance of it imposed upon this country.

Such mediation would, moreover, violate the fundamental principle of arbitration and of common justice. There is no principle better established than that a man shall be tried by a jury of his peers. A nation must enjoy the same privilege. The arbitrator between two nations must be their peer. It must be a Power equal to themselves in independent sovereignty. And such this Government does not recognize the Pope to be. Spain does. It stands by the principle of temporal sovereignty, and recognizes the Pope as a political as well as spiritual ruler by accrediting an Ambassador to his Court. But whatever respect this Government may have for the Pope as a man and as the spiritual head of one of the greatest and most ancient of Christian churches, it does not enter into political relations with him as an independent sovereign and as its diplomatic peer. That fact alone would entirely bar such mediation.

WAR AND WHISKY.

A gentleman who is largely interested in the manufacture of whiskey has just been giving, in answer to inquiries on the subject, his views as to the probable effect of a war with Spain upon the whiskey business. The inquiries were pertinent and timely, it being the universal belief that war and whiskey, if they do not always go together, are liable to be closely related. In discussing the subject it was not entirely clear in what order they should be framed, whether War and Whiskey, or Whiskey and War. That is to say, it is an open question whether the effect of war upon the production and sale of whiskey or the influence of whiskey in producing war is the more important. The gentleman referred to gave his views upon both aspects of the subject. With regard to the effect of war upon the production and sale of whiskey he was not positive, there being no precedent to go by except the known fact that large fortunes were made by whiskey distillers during our Civil War, and the current report that similar interests have prospered during all modern wars in Europe. As to the influence of whiskey in producing war, he remarked that when people get excited they drink more freely, which helps the whiskey business. During the last two months he said there had been an unprecedented demand for whiskey for drinking purposes, and he attributed it to the continued excitement over the prospect of war with Spain.

It is undoubtedly true that war helps the sale of whiskey, and probably no less true that the sale of whiskey promotes war. They act and react upon each other, and it is not easy to decide which is entitled to precedence in the order of potentiality. One thing is certain, however, that whiskey and war work together like a pair of shears. To which it may be added that whoever gets between them stands a good chance to get cut off. This intimate relation between the condition and the commodity suggests also an explanation of certain phases of the existing situation. The newspapers which for the last two or three years have been in a state of mind over the imminent peril to which the liberties of the citizen were exposed by the enforcement of laws placing limits upon the unrestricted sale of whiskey twenty-four hours a day seven days of the week, have been in the same state of mind for the last six weeks over the dreadful possibility

that the National honor may be sacrificed and the stamp of cowardice be put upon us as a people by our neglect to jump at the first chance to get into a foreign war. Is this only a coincidence, or is it the logic of the situation?

These impassioned advocates of unrestricted whiskey and unbridled war have not been slow to impute motives to those who disagree with them. In both cases they have charged their opponents with pandering to the "better element"—in quotations—and the "Money Power"—in large type. But how about their own motives? Shall we say that they, too, are constantly and consistently pandering to the one interest which finds profit in wide-open saloons and wide-open war? Are they howling for war, in season and out of season, all day and all night, in the language of vituperation and the type of the poster, for the same reason that they denounced the enforcement of law? Is it because the sale of whiskey leads to war and the condition of war promotes the sale of whiskey? Let us hope not, though their behavior points to that explanation, and the judgment whereby they judge others provokes retort in kind.

Leaving these considerations aside, however, there is food for reflection in the statement above referred to, made by a gentleman who knows whereof he speaks, that during the last two months, in which there has been so much and such loose war talk, there has been an unprecedented consumption of whiskey. The longer the war talk the greater the consumption of whiskey, and vice versa. Whiskey and War! War and Whiskey! It may be that war is inevitable, but if it be, let us hope that it will be entered upon with the deliberation and calmness of sobriety, and not under the influence of whiskey, with drunken recklessness in the whirl of intoxication.

GREAT BRITAIN AT WEI-HAI-WEI.

The statement that Russia and Germany are not pleased at the acquisition of Wei-Hai-Wei by Great Britain may well be believed. It is not known that Great Britain asked permission of either of those Powers, nor that she was in any respect under obligation to do so, any more than they were to consult her about their recent land-grabbing in the same part of the world. Two wrong acts do not make a third one right, but they do logically and morally debar the doors of them from criticizing the door of it. Great Britain has not attempted to prevent the acquisition of Chinese territory by rival Powers. She will not regard with much trepidation whatever ungenerous murmurings they may make against her similar conduct.

The strategic importance of Wei-Hai-Wei has recently been explained in these columns. It is in a more commanding place than Port Arthur, for it dominates the approach not only to Peking, as the latter does, but also the approach to Port Arthur itself. It commands not only the Gulf of Pechili, as does Port Arthur, but Corea Bay as well. It is, moreover, naturally fitted to become an impregnable fortress, a veritable "Gibraltar of the East," to use again a much-overworked phrase. British possession of it will be to Russia much what British possession of Heligoland was to Germany, but rather more annoying and menacing. All Russian commerce to and from Port Arthur and Tientsin and all Russian naval preparations there will henceforth pass under the very muzzles of British guns.

Not the least interesting and significant feature of the case is the part played by Japan. She holds Wei-Hai-Wei at present as surety for the Chinese war indemnity, and has not long ago considered the desirability of taking permanent possession of it. Now, however, she is said to have acquiesced in the British "lease" of it. That indicates a close and friendly understanding between Japan and Great Britain—a thing of hopeful omen for civilization in the East. It also indicates that Japan will devote her energies to strengthening her hold upon Corea, where Russia has for the time given her a clear field. That Russia has permanently abandoned her pretensions in Corea is not, of course, to be imagined. She has withdrawn from that Empire merely in order to disarm Japanese opposition to her seizure of the Emperor's sword, and to give herself time to complete her railroad across Siberia. When the latter work is done there can be no doubt that she will again move upon Corea.

The intimation that France will demand compensating concessions on the Chinese coast was to be expected. Nothing more has been heard of the French demands which were put forward for prompt settlement a few days ago, except the general statement that the execution of them has been delayed by British opposition and Russian non-support. British opposition has probably existed only in Chauvinist imagination. Lack of support by Russia there unquestionably has been. That is Russia's policy, to use France for her own purposes in every possible way, but to render France no services whatever in return. It is to be hoped France will realize this and take her own initiative, which she is amply competent to do. Her acquisition of a coaling station at the mouth of the Min River could give no offence to Great Britain, since it would be about five hundred miles from Hong Kong on the one hand and nearly four hundred from Chusan on the other. Japan might not like it, for it would be pretty close to the northern end of Formosa, but it is not probable that she would make any actual opposition.

The whole coast of China thus bids fair to be partitioned among the Powers. When that is done the question of the "interlarded" will arise, with manifold perplexities. It will be found a far harder thing to take possession of populous provinces far inland than to seize coast cities which lie helpless under the guns of the fleet.

DR. BRIGGS AN EPISCOPALIAN.

The only surprising thing about the decision of Professor Briggs to become a clergyman of the Episcopal Church is that he delayed it so long. He has for many years been in sympathy with the Episcopal Church, and, in fact, has been reported as saying that if he had to live his life over again he would enter its ministry. Not only do his published writings contain nothing at variance with Episcopal views, but many of his utterances are in the very spirit of that Church's creed. A striking illustration of this is his contention that the Church and the Bible are co-ordinate sources of authority. Nor will his denial of Biblical inerrancy prove a bar to his entering a communion which numbers a Driver and a Cheyne among its most highly honored clergymen and scholars. In making this change in his ecclesiastical relations he will have to make absolutely no change in his faith, and in regard to the Episcopacy, if he believes simply that it is essential to the well-being, though not to the being, of the Church, he will become a good enough Episcopalian for all practical purposes.

That Dr. Briggs should have finally found his position in the Presbyterian Church an intolerable one is not at all strange. As an outcome of his trial a few years ago he was suspended from the exercise of his functions as a minister of the Church, while he still remained a minister in good standing. There was no hope that this suspension would ever be removed, for it was imposed upon him for holding views that he regarded as true and within the limits of the Church's creed, and, of course, he could not give up such views without consulting an act of dishonesty. To remain in the Presby-

terian Church, therefore, meant to remain a muzzled minister for the rest of his life. And under such circumstances it is entirely natural that he should decide to enter a Church with which he is in sympathy and in which, presumably, he will have more freedom of utterance than he has found in the Presbyterian Church.

Died of a war scare: Charter Day. "It died a-borning." No flowers, but plenty of beer.

Favorable reports of the Nicaragua Canal survey are to be welcomed. If only that canal had been constructed when it should have been and as it should have been the ship Oregon would be at Key West now, instead of at Callao.